

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 295640
ORIGIN NODS-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 295640

NODIS

CHEROKEE FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOL TEL SENT ACTION ACAIRO INFO SECSTATE FROM TEL AVIV DTD 09 DEC
1977 QTE

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10474

NODIS CHEROKEE

CAIRO FOR USDEL SECRETARY

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ATHERTON FROM LEWIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(VANCE, CYRUS), PGOV, IS, EG, US

SUBJ: "SOME POINTS TO MAKE TO BEGIN"

REF: SECTO 12030

1. I SPOKE TO BEGIN LATE IN AFTERNOON ON DECEMBER 9 AND
MADE POINTS IN PARA 2 OF REFTEL. OMITTED SENTENCE WHICH
BEGINS "IN THIS CONTEXT", PER ATHERTON/VIETS TELECON.

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2. BEGIN SAID HE APPRECIATED HAVING SECRETARY'S MESSAGE AND
WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING MORE ELABORATION ON SADAT'S
THINKING WHEN SECRETARY ARRIVES TOMORROW EVENING. HE WENT
ON TO SAY THAT HE KNEW SADAT WAS HAVING REAL DIFFICULTIES
WITH THE OTHER ARABS, AND THAT HE WANTED TO BE AS HELPFUL TO
SADAT AS POSSIBLE. HE NOW CONSIDERED SADAT TO BE HIS FRIEND;

SADAT HAD SAID SO DURING THEIR MEETING HERE, AND HE BELIEVED HIM.

3. BEGIN THEN REMINDED ME OF SOME OF THE THINGS DAYAN HAD SAID TO ME YESTERDAY. HE SAID HE WAS WORKING ON A "VERY SERIOUS PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM - A PLAN FOR SELF-RULE FOR THE PALESTINIANS". HE HAD DECIDED TO PLACE IT BEFORE THE "SECURITY COMMITTEE" OF THE CABINET ON TUESDAY FOR THEIR APPROVAL. IF IT IS APPROVED, HE WOULD THEN WANT TO DISCUSS IT WITH US AND WITH SADAT. HE EMPHASIZED IT WOULD BE A "VERY SERIOUS PLAN."

4. WHEN I GOT BACK TO THE EMBASSY THIS EVENING FROM JERUSALEM I FOUND THAT DAYAN HAD CALLED. HE SAID BEGIN HAD TALKED WITH HIM AFTER OUR CONVERSATION AND HE WOULD BE CONSULTING FURTHER WITH BEGIN TOMORROW ABOUT WHAT BEGIN MIGHT SAY TO HELP SADAT. DAYAN TRIED TO FIND OUT WHAT EXACTLY SADAT WANTED BEGIN TO SAY. I DID NOT RPT NOT GO INTO ANY OF THE SPECIFICS IN CAIRO'S 20501, SAYING THAT I COULD NOT ADD MUCH TO WHAT I HAD TOLD BEGIN, AND SUGGESTING THEY WAIT UNTIL THEY COULD OBTAIN A CLEAR PICTURE FROM THE SECRETARY.

DAYAN WAS ESPECIALLY ANXIOUS TO KNOW WHETHER SADAT WANTED A PUBLIC STATEMENT DEALING JUST WITH EGYPT, OR SOMETHING ON THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. I SAID IT WAS MY IMPRESSION HE NEEDED SOMETHING BROADER THAT DEALT WITH "THE WHOLE PROBLEM", BUT THAT THEY SHOULD WAIT TO GET A CLEARER PICTURE FROM THE SECRETARY.

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DAYAN REFERRED TO BEGIN'S "SELF-RULE" PLAN, AND SAID HE THOUGHT THE PRIME MINISTER HAD IN MIND ANNOUNCING IT, PERHAPS LATE NEXT WEEK, AFTER CONSULTATION WITH US AND WITH SADAT, IF SADAT THOUGHT THAT WOULD MEET HIS PROBLEM. I SAID I WAS NOT AT ALL SURE IT WOULD, AND AGAIN URGED THAT THEY MAKE NO FIRM DECISION UNTIL AFTER TALKING WITH THE SECRETARY. DAYAN THEN CONCLUDED BY SAYING HE WOULD "VERY MUCH APPRECIATE HAVING OUR ADVICE ON HOW TO HELP BEGIN HELP SADAT".

6. COMMENT: THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE THOUGHTS I CONVEYED TO BEGIN PROVIDED A USEFUL "SCENE-SETTER". NOR IS THERE ANY DOUBT THAT BEGIN WANTS TO BE HELPFUL. I DO NOT BELIEVE HE WILL BE PERSUADED TO MAKE THE KIND OF DECLARATION SADAT HAS IN MIND (CAIRO'S 20501), (PARA 4) THOUGH I DO NOT RULE OUT SOME VARIANT OF IT - ESPECIALLY IF THE BAIT WERE ELEVATION OF THE CAIRO CONFERENCE TO HEADS OF STATE LEVEL WITH PRESIDENT CARTER IN ATTENDANCE. THE MORE I REFLECT ON SADAT'S IDEAS, THE MORE I THINK SOMETHING MIGHT BE IN THE BALL PARK IF IT PRODUCED A BEGIN APPEARANCE IN EGYPT - ONE OF HIS FONDEST DREAMS RIGHT NOW. LEWIS UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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